

- (a) whether it is proposed to set up a Directorate of Road Safety; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) An Expert Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri S. Sundar, former Secretary, Ministry of Surface Transport and Distinguished Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) to deliberate and make recommendations for creation of a dedicated body on Road Safety and Traffic Management.

### **Cargo handling at Paradeep port**

1733. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the traffic at Paradeep port has picked up and the unit also has significantly picked up the handling of cargo;
- (b) if so, the details of its impressive performance during the previous fiscal; and
- (c) the action plan of Government to further improve the infrastructure of the unit to help handling the additional traffic when the new steel and other plants come into operation in Orissa State?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Paradip port handled 33.10 million tonnes of cargo traffic during 2005-06 which is an increase of 30.78% over the year 2003-04.

(c) Development of the port including its infrastructure is an ongoing process. Keeping in view the demands of Maritime Trade under the National Maritime Development Programme (NMDP) formulated by the Department of Shipping, a total number of 276 projects in the major ports involving

development of berth, deepening of channels, equipments upgradation and improvement in rail and road connectivity and other associated projects have been identified to be taken up for implementation by 2011 -12. Out of the above, 28 projects involving an estimated investment of Rs. 2403 crores pertain to Paradip port. These include deepening of the ports channel to receive large size ships, development of berths for handling iron ore and coal, and projects for enhancing road and rail linkage between the port, mines and the upcoming industrial units.

### **Progress of NHDP**

1734. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Inter-Ministerial Group has recommended that Government should create expertise in public sector participation, private partnership projects to ensure smooth progress of the National Highways Development Programme;

(b) whether this report has been submitted to the PM to shape the restructuring plan for NHs;

(c) whether the report also points out that Board Members should be made to deal with the policy issues related to PPP projects; and

(d) if so, whether the PM has given go-ahead signals to these projects and how many recommendations of the report have been accepted and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Inter-Ministerial Committee has finalized the report on restructuring of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). The report is under consideration of the Government. The recommendations of the committee will be implemented after the approval of the Government.